

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: PPC/DI INQUIRY CONCERNING INFORMATION PACKAGES
REQUESTED BY MISSIONS

1. USAID/LIMA FOR BARRY N. HEYMAN PER 3/25/77 RESPONSF
ON "MISSION LETTER REGARDING EDUCATION/NUTRITION PROJECT."

2. USAID/LIMA FOR MILTON W. LAU PER 4/22/77 RESPONSE
ON "APPROPRIATE RURAL TECHNOLOGIES."

3. THE OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION HAS BEEN OPERAT-
ING ON A PILOT BASIS FOR SIX MONTHS. THE PURPOSE OF THE
OFFICE IS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO PROJECT DESIGNERS AND
MANAGERS CONCERNING EXPERIENCE OF THE AGENCY AND OTHERS
INVOLVED IN DEVELOPING COUNTRY PROJECTS. IT IS THE OPERAT-
ING HYPOTHESIS OF THIS OFFICE THAT THE AVAILABILITY OF
EXPERIENTIAL INFORMATION ON A TIMELY BASIS WILL RESULT IN
THE DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF BETTER PROJECTS; PROJECTS
THAT BUILD UPON THE TECHNICAL AND MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCES
GAINED IN OTHER SITUATIONS RATHER THAN REPEATED USE OF SUB-
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OPTIMAL AND/OR RELATIVELY UNSUCCESSFUL APPROACHES. TO
ACCOMPLISH THIS OBJECTIVE PPC/DI PREPARES INFORMATION
PACKAGES BOTH IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRIES FROM AID/W AND FIELD

PERSONNEL, AND ON A "SEMI-AUTOMATIC" BASIS FOR ALL
APPROVED PIDS (I.E., A PACKAGE IS DEVELOPED FOR PIDS
WITHOUT A SPECIFIC REQUEST FOR INFORMATION BEING SENT TO

PPC/DI.) DURING PILOT OPERATIONS PPC/DI PREPARED INFORMATION PACKAGES IN THE AREAS OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN EXPERIMENTING WITH DIFFERENT TYPES OF INFORMATION PACKAGES, E.G., RELATIVELY COMPLETE INFORMATION PACKAGES COVERING PROJECT EXPERIENCE AND PUBLISHED MATERIALS AS WELL AS "QUICK RESPONSE" AIRGRAMS THAT ALLOW THE FIELD DESIGNERS TO PARTICIPATE IN DETERMINING THE EXACT FOCUS AND SCOPE OF THE SEARCH WE WILL CONDUCT FOR THEIR BENEFIT.

4. AS PART OF OUR OWN EVALUATION OF THIS SERVICE, AND IN CONJUNCTION WITH AID'S ANALYSIS OF THE COMING YEAR'S OPERATING BUDGET, PPC/DI IS UNDERTAKING AN EXAMINATION OF THE SERVICES IT INTENDS TO PROVIDE ON A FULL-TIME, TOTAL PROGRAM (ALL SECTORS) BASIS. OUR EVALUATION IS AIMED AT IDENTIFYING: 1) THE COSTS AND BENEFITS OF THE SERVICE; 2) THE OPTIMUM APPROACH TO PROVIDING INFORMATION, FROM THE USER'S POINT OF VIEW.

5. AS PART OF THIS EFFORT WE ARE REQUESTING YOUR COOPERATION IN ANSWERING A SERIES OF QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE INFORMATION PACKAGE DEVELOPED FOR YOU BY PPC/DI. THESE ANSWERS WILL HELP US TO ANALYZE OUR SERVICE FROM A USER'S POINT OF VIEW. BECAUSE WE ARE UNDER A VERY TIGHT TIME CONSTRAINT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE YOUR ANSWERS BY CABLE. THE QUESTIONNAIRE IS SET UP TO ALLOW YOU TO UNCLASSIFIED

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ANSWER BY SHOWING THE QUESTION NUMBER AND A ONE OR TWO WORD RESPONSE, E.G., 5. 2 WEEKS BEFORE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO BEING OF SERVICE TO YOU IN THE FUTURE.

6. 1. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS DESCRIBE THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE INFORMATION PROVIDED TO YOU BY PPC/DI TO YOUR PROJECT OR PROGRAM? (ANSWER: FOR EXAMPLE, A, B AND D.)
A) THE INFORMATION LED TO CHANGES IN THE PROJECT/ PROGRAM DESIGN (E.G., CHANGES IN PLANNED INPUTS OR OUTPUTS FOR THE PROJECT)
B) THE INFORMATION LED TO CHANGES IN THE ASSUMPTIONS MADE AND MONITORED FOR THE PROJECT/PROGRAM
C) WHILE NOT CHANGING THE DESIGN, THE INFORMATION LED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A TIGHTER DESIGN/IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
D) WHILE NOT CHANGING THE DESIGN, THE INFORMATION SERVED TO INCREASE THE MISSION/PROJECT TEAM CONFIDENCE IN THE DESIGN THAT HAD BEEN DEVELOPED

E) THE INFORMATION MADE NO DIFFERENCE, OR WAS

IRRELEVANT TO THE DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROJECT/PROGRAM

2. HOW MANY WEEKS BEFORE OR AFTER THE DATE ON WHICH YOU NEEDED TO MAKE CRITICAL PROJECT DECISIONS DID THE INFORMATION FROM PPC/DI ARRIVE? (NO. OF WEEKS BEFORE/ AFTER OR ON TIME)

3. IN GENERAL WHEN YOU MAKE A REQUEST OF PPC/DI YOU NEED TO HAVE THE INFORMATION BACK FROM PPC/DI IN HOW MANY WEEKS? (NO. OF WEEKS)

4. WHAT IS THE OPTIMUM NUMBER OF WEEKS BETWEEN PID APPROVAL AND YOUR RECEIPT OF AN INFORMATION PACKAGE FROM PPC/DI? (NO. OF WEEKS)

5. AT SOME POINT IT WOULD BE "TOO LATE" FOR PPC/DI INFORMATION TO BE OF USE TO YOU FOLLOWING PID APPROVAL.
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HOW MANY WEEKS COULD GO BY WITHOUT IT BEING "TOO LATE" FOR PPC/DI INFORMATION TO BE USEFUL IN YOUR DECISION-MAKING PROCESS? (NO. OF WEEKS)

6. HOW MANY DAYS OF AID DIRECT HIRE TIME REQUIRED TO ANALYZE PAST EXPERIENCE FOR PROJECT DESIGN DO YOU ESTIMATE YOUR DESIGN TEAM COULD SAVE IF PPC/DI PROVIDES YOU THIS SERVICE ON A CONSISTENT AND TIMELY BASIS?
(NO. OF DAYS -- FOR 1 PROJECT)

7. HOW MANY DAYS OF OUTSIDE CONSULTANT TIME SPENT IN GATHERING SUCH INFORMATION DO YOU ESTIMATE MIGHT BE SAVED? (NO. OF DAYS -- FOR 1 PROJECT)

8. DID THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY PPC/DI DECREASE THE ELAPSED TIME YOU REQUIRED TO DESIGN YOUR PROJECT OR MAKE THE DECISION YOU FACED? (YES OR NO)

9. IF PPC/DI SERVED YOU ON A TIMELY AND CONSISTENT BASIS WHAT PERCENT OF THE TOTAL TIME REQUIRED FOR PROJECT DESIGN MIGHT BE SAVED? (PERCENT)

10. IN RECONSIDERING THE INFORMATION PACKAGE YOU RECEIVED FROM PPC/DI, WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF INFORMATION WERE OF GREATEST VALUE? (ANSWER: B AND D, FOR EXAMPLE)

A) SUMMARIES OF THE "DESIGN" CHARACTERISTICS OF PAST/ONGOING AID PROJECTS

B) ABSTRACTS OF EVALUATIONS OF AID PROJECTS

C) SUMMARIES AND EVALUATIONS OF PROJECTS CONDUCTED BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

D) SUMMARIES AND ABSTRACTS OF THE LITERATURE ON THE SUBSTANTIVE TOPIC MY QUESTION OR PID ADDRESSED

E) INFORMATION ON SOURCES OF EXPERTISE (INDIVIDUALS AND INSTITUTIONS) IN THE SUBSTANTIVE FIELD MY QUESTION OR PID ADDRESSED.

11. AS PPC/DI PREPARES FUTURE PACKAGES FOR YOU AND
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OTHER USERS WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES DO YOU
FEEL WOULD BE BEST FOR GETTING YOU INFORMATION THAT IS
VALUABLE TO YOU? (ANSWER A OR B OR C)

A) IT WOULD BE VALUABLE IF PPC/DI CABLED ME CONCERNING THE TYPE OF SEARCH IT PLANNED TO CONDUCT (AND THE TYPES OF MATERIALS IT INTENDED TO SEND ME) AND LET ME COMMENT ON THE PLAN BEFORE THE SEARCH WAS MADE.

B) I WOULD NOT FIND IT USEFUL TO COMMENT ON A SEARCH PLAN. I WOULD RATHER HAVE PPC/DI DEVELOP AND EXECUTE A SEARCH WITHOUT MY INPUT AND GET FOR ME AS MUCH POTENTIALLY USEFUL INFORMATION AS THEY COULD BY THE TIME I HAVE INDICATED I NEED INFORMATION.

C) FOR ME, A COMBINED APPROACH WOULD BE BEST, ONE IN WHICH PPC/DI SENT ME THE INFORMATION ON AID PROJECT EXPERIENCE QUICKLY AND ALSO SENT ME A PLAN FOR ADDITIONAL NON-AID PROJECTS, LITERATURE, SEARCHES, AND SOURCES OF EXPERTISE, AND LET ME COMMENT ON WHAT PORTIONS OF THE NON-AID SEARCH PLAN SHOULD BE EXECUTED. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Enclosure: n/a
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